

April 15, 2014

Stephanie Zaza, MD, MPH
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS-E75
Atlanta, GA 30341

Dear Dr. Zaza:

The American Association of School Administrations (AASA) is pleased to provide its continued support for the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). It is vitally important for the health and well-being of our nation's youth that YRBS data is not only tracked, but remains the primary source of information on the most important health risk behaviors.

In addition, the YRBS data are an invaluable resource used by public and private organizations to set and monitor program goals, develop health education programs, support health-related legislation, and seek funding for programs that focus on reducing health risk behavior among youth.

The American Association of School Administrators supports the continuation of the YRBS at the national, state, and local levels to ensure a healthier future for youth nationwide. We strongly encourage states, districts, and schools to participate in the 2015 national survey.

Sincerely,



Daniel A. Domenech
Executive Director

cc: Sharon Adams-Taylor
Associate Executive Director
Children's Initiatives and Program Development

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



April 21, 2014

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Stephanie Zaza, MD, MPH
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS-E75
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Zaza:

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Fayetteville, GA

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is once again pleased to support the CDC's efforts in conducting the Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (YRBS). The AAP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization of 62,000 pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical subspecialists dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. The data that the YRBS collects are critical to the adolescent health care work of the AAP, particularly as it relates to policy development and advocacy. Identification of risk behaviors among youth is critical in helping guide our efforts to reduce these behaviors and improve health outcomes of the nation's adolescents and young adults.

CDC's dedication to maintaining the YRBS system at all levels (local, state and national) is important in raising awareness of the kinds of risky behaviors in which adolescents engage, and the role pediatricians and other health care providers play in reducing these unhealthy and risky behaviors. The major areas of concern that youth today face range from drug and alcohol use/abuse and sexual activity to nutrition, physical activity and inadequate sleep. These issues impact many facets of adolescents' lives that can result in long-term consequences, ranging from unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, poorer school performance, and unhealthy lifestyle choices.

We hope that health care providers and schools across the country see the importance of implementing these surveys, the results of which will provide many opportunities for implementing so many important programs at all levels. The data also support and validate the recommendations made by the AAP that are key to ensuring the highest quality of care for their adolescent and young adult patients.

We look forward to the release of the 2013 data this June and we appreciate your efforts in conducting these surveys.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James M. Perrin".

James M. Perrin, MD, FAAP
President

JMP/kss

cc: Roger F. Suchyta, MD
Fan Tait, MD
Darcy Steinberg-Hastings, MPH
Karen S. Smith
Paula K. Braverman, MD



Association Of State And Territorial Health Officials
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April 22, 2014

Stephanie Zaza, MD, MPH
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS-E75
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Zaza:

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is pleased to learn about the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Adolescent and School Health's (CDC/DASH) continued efforts to collect vital data from high school students through the 2015 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).

The YRBS is an integral tool for collecting information about the health behaviors of high school youth, including risk taking and risk avoidance. This information is essential for program planning and policy development at the state level, as well as locally and nationally. State health officials and their staff also use these data to monitor the adolescent health objectives for Healthy People 2020 and the Leading Health Indicators.

CDC/DASH has demonstrated a strong commitment to the development of a survey that yields useful information for both health and education officials and that promotes a collaborative relationship between these two sectors. ASTHO's members and the state health agencies they lead have benefited from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System and their partnerships with state education agencies. It is important that CDC/DASH work with state education agencies and school boards to increase YRBS participation and support the work of data collection at the schools. Enhancing collaboration among schools and state agencies will continue to advance adolescent health nationwide.

We offer our support to CDC/DASH and look forward to partnering with you in the future on this important effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Paul E. Jarris, MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Jarris, MD, MBA
Executive Director
ASTHO



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April 15, 2014

Stephanie Zaza, MD, MPH
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS-E75
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Zaza:

The purpose of this letter is to express the continuing support of the Council of Chief State School Officers for the national, state and local Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System to measure a comprehensive set of priority health risk behaviors, including behaviors that result in transmission of HIV.

The information gathered a) helps determine the health status of youth throughout the country; and b) assists educators in planning and implementing effective coordinated school health programs including prevention of HIV infection and AIDS.

Since it is our understanding that the rights and anonymity of students are protected, we encourage and recommend that states, districts, and schools participate in this important activity to gather information needed to develop sound school health policies.

Sincerely,

Chris Minnich
Executive Director

NASBE

National Association of
State Boards of Education

April 23, 2014

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Stephanie Zaza, MD, MPH

Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health

National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention

1600 Clifton Road

Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Zaza:

The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) enthusiastically supports the implementation of the 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) — nationally, in every state, and in as many localities as possible. Over the years, YRBS has proven to be a valuable and unique source of crucial state and national-level information about the behaviors affecting the healthy growth and full development of our nation's children and youth. The information provided by YRBS has proven essential to the development of effective prevention and intervention strategies.

NASBE has relied heavily on YRBS data to inform and assist education policymakers and practitioners in their efforts to develop policies and programs that foster health-promoting schools. The continuation of YRBS will help ensure that state boards of education and other education decision-makers will have access to important, credible research needed to develop sound policies and programs.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if NASBE can be of further assistance in this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Kristen Amundson

Executive Director

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Arlington, Virginia 22202
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Kristen Amundson
Executive Director



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April 22, 2014

Stephanie Zaza, MD, MPH
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS-E75
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Zaza:

On behalf of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the 2015 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (2015 YRBS) which will gather nationally representative data for students in grades 9 through 12 on priority health risk behaviors. The information generated from the 2015 YRBS is essential for measuring the effectiveness of prevention and education programs, ensuring accountability, and providing an index against which States may compare their own local YRBS results.

To reduce the burden in any one school, only a small number of classes (one or two per grade) will be selected randomly within each selected school from required courses. The survey will take one regular 45-minute class period to complete and will be administered by specially trained field staff.

NASSP is involved in the efforts of the Healthy Schools Campaign as well as the Let's Move in Schools Campaign. In the past, NASSP has supported the efforts of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Action for Healthy Kids, and the American School Health Association. We look forward to the survey results that will provide States with a helpful tool in developing tobacco prevention and control programs for youth. In addition, NASSP was instrumental in the launch of President Obama's national dialogue to increase understanding about mental health and its impact on youth.

I understand that the rights and anonymity of all students are protected and that data will not be reported by school, district, or state, but rather it will be presented as representative data of the nation as a whole. Therefore, we encourage and recommend that States, school districts, and schools participate voluntarily in this important activity.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Bartoletti
Executive Director
National Association of Secondary School Principals



National Catholic Educational Association
Leadership. Direction. Service.

April 2, 2014

Stephanie Zaza, MD, MPH
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Kroger/Columbia Building
2900 Woodcock Boulevard
Chamblee, Georgia 30341

Dear Dr. Zaza:

The National Catholic Educational Association is pleased to provide this letter of support the 2015 National Youth Risk Behaviors Study (2015 YRBS), sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This will gather nationally representative data for students in grades 9 through 12 on priority health risk behaviors.

Since the important information generated from YBRS 2015 is essential for measuring the effectiveness of prevention and education programs nationwide, including the private schools, the Association welcomes the opportunity for Catholic schools to contribute to this comprehensive assessment.

To reduce the burden in any one school, only a small number of classes will be selected randomly within each selected school from required courses. The survey will take one regular 45-minute class period to complete and will be administered by specially trained field staff.

NCEA understands that the rights and anonymity of all students are protected and that data will not be reported by school, district, or state, but rather it will be presented as representative data of the nation as a whole. Therefore, NCEA encourages and recommends that our Catholic schools participate voluntarily in this important activity.

Sincerely,

Brother Robert R. Bimonte, FSC
President



*Jim Bender
Executive Director*

*Cary S. Sennett
President
Board of Directors*

*John Stocks
Secretary-Treasurer
Board of Directors*

May 20, 2014

Stephanie Zaza, MD, MPH
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, N.E., MS-E75
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Zaza:

The National Education Association Health Information Network (NEA HIN) continues to support CDC's efforts as the primary source of information on the most important health risk behaviors of high school students in this country.

We have reviewed the fact sheet provided on the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System and find it to be quite profound. We are pleased to be associated with such a resourceful entity such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We recognize that it is an honor to support such a noteworthy cause, encouraging youth to remain tobacco-free.

As preparations are made for the 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey we are happy to endorse your efforts and look forward to a successful outcome once again.

Sincerely,


Jim Bender
Executive Director



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April 24, 2014

Stephanie Zaza, MD, MPH
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS-E75
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Zaza:


On behalf of the National School Boards Association (NSBA) we are pleased to provide this letter of support for the 2015 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (2015 YRBS) which will gather nationally representative data for students in grades 9 through 12 on priority health risk behaviors. The information generated from the 2015 YRBS is essential for measuring the effectiveness of prevention and education programs, ensuring accountability, and providing an index against which States may compare their own local YRBS results.

To reduce the burden in any one school, only a small number of classes (one or two per grade) will be selected randomly within each selected school from required courses. The survey will take one regular 45-minute class period to complete and will be administered by specially trained field staff.

NSBA represents the nation's 13,800 local school boards that strive to ensure that no child is left behind from the opportunities to be successful in school and in life. In its beliefs and policies, NSBA recognized the critical link between health and learning and the role of schools in promoting life-long health and preventing health risk behaviors.

I/we understand that the rights and anonymity of all students are protected and that data will not be reported by school, district, or state, but rather it will be presented as representative data of the nation as a whole. Therefore, we encourage and recommend that States, school districts, and schools participate voluntarily in this important activity.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Gentzel
Executive Director